

Amendments to the Drawings:

Applicants attach substitute drawing figures hereto. A marked-up copy of the drawings are also submitted herewith to highlight the amendments made to the drawings for the Examiner's convenience. Specifically, new figures 1-17 have been inserted and previous Figures 1-6 have been re-numbered as new Figures 18-23. No new matter has been added.

REMARKS

Claims 101-152 are pending. Claims 1, 4-12, 15-23, 26-34, 36, 38-54, 56, 58-74, 76, and 78-100 have been cancelled. Claims 101-152 are newly presented. Reconsideration and allowance of the present application based on the following remarks are respectfully requested.

Applicants appreciate the courtesies extended to Applicant's representatives by the Examiner during the July 13, 2006 personal interview between the Applicant's representatives and the Examiner. During the interview, Applicant's representatives and the Examiner discussed the newly presented independent claims and more specifically, how these independent claims were fully supported by the original PCT application (the Schnelle reference). The Examiner agreed that if in fact the new claims were supported, that the rejections of record would be moot. The Examiner appeared to agree that the claims were supported but indicated that he would have to consider the claims in more detail.

In the Specification

Applicants have amended the specification to include the subject matter of priority document PCT/AU98/00050. A substitute specification and a marked-up version of the substitute specification is filed herewith as required. Additionally, Applicants submit that no new matter has been added because the instant application (on page 1, line 9) incorporates PCT/AU98/00050 by reference.

Claim Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 1, 4-10, 12, 15-21, 23, 26-32, and 98-100 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over Schnelle (WO 98/34179) in view of Dolan (U.S. Patent No. 5,963,208); claims 11, 22, and 33 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over Schnelle in view of Dolan and further in view of Weinberg *et al.* (U.S. Patent No. 6,144,962); claims 34, 38, 43, 44, 47-50, 54, 58, 63, 64, 67-70, 74, 78, 83, 84, and 87-90 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over Schnelle in view of Dolan and further in view of Fay (U.S. Patent No. 5,892,513); claims 36, 45, 46, 51-53, 56, 65, 66, 71-73, 76, 85, 86, 91-93, and 95-97 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over Schnelle in view of Dolan and further in view of Fay and McIntosh (U.S. Patent No. 6,185,576); and claims 39-42, 59-62, and 79-82 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over Schnelle in view of Dolan and further in view of Fay and Chau *et al.* (U.S. Publication No. 2002/0133484).

Applicants respectfully submit that these rejections are moot in view of the cancellation of claims 1, 4-12, 15-23, 26-34, 36, 38-54, 56, 58-74, 76, and 78-100. However, to the extent that these references apply to the newly presented claims, the references are discussed below with respect to the new claims.

New Claims

Claims 101-152 are newly presented, fully supported by the originally filed specification and believed allowable over the prior art of record. Specifically, the above rejections each rely on the Schnelle reference. The instant application is a continuation-in-part application of the Schnelle reference. Furthermore, Applicants respectfully submit that each newly presented claim is fully supported by the Schnelle reference and entitled to the January 31, 1997 priority date. For example, support for the claimed invention can be found throughout the specification of PCT/AU98/00050, such as at Figures 3, 4, and 7-17 and on page 9, lines 8-26, page 9, lines 34-39, page 10, lines 5-7, 31-34 and page 16, line 18 – page 18, line 25.


Conclusion

Therefore, all objections and rejections having been addressed, it is respectfully submitted that the present application is in a condition for allowance and a Notice to that effect is earnestly solicited.

Should any issues remain unresolved, the Examiner is encouraged to contact the undersigned attorney for Applicants at the telephone number indicated below in order to expeditiously resolve any remaining issues.

Respectfully submitted,

JONES DAY

By: 

John E. Mauk
Registration No. 54,579
Direct No. (202) 879-3628

Mark G. Paulson
Registration No. 30,793
Direct No. (202) 879-5489

MGP/JEM
51 Louisiana Avenue, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20001-2113
(202) 879-3939 Telephone
(202) 626-1700 Facsimile

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